

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 15, 16, 19, 20, 21 and 34 are amended and claims 29 and 30 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-28 and 31-40 are pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and re-examination of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 17, 18 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner stated that it is unclear to the Examiner if the "second member" in claims 17 and 18 is a different structure than the "at least one stop" recited in the independent claim. Regarding claim 30, the Examiner stated that it is unclear if the "stop" recited in claim 29 is the same "stop" as recited in claim 30.

In response, claim 17 is amended herein to further recite that "the at least one stop surface of the connector portion comprises at least one second member ..." Accordingly, the rejection of claim 17 (and dependent claim 18) is respectfully traversed. The rejection of claim 30 is moot, in view of the cancellation of claim 30. While claim 30 is cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, limitations of claim 30 have been included in amended claim 34 (as claim 30 was an intervening claim with respect to claim 34). However, the language of original claim 30 that was cited in the above rejection has not been incorporated into amended claim 34. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 30 would not apply to amended claim 34.

Claims 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fischell (USP 5,545,143). This rejection is moot, in view of the cancellation of claims 29 and 30, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant notes with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 1-16, 19-28, 31-33 and 37-40 are allowed and that claims 34-36 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, claim 34 is amended herein to be in independent form and to include all of the limitations of the base claim 29 and all of the limitations of the intervening claim 30, except any limitations included in the portion of the claim that was objected to by the

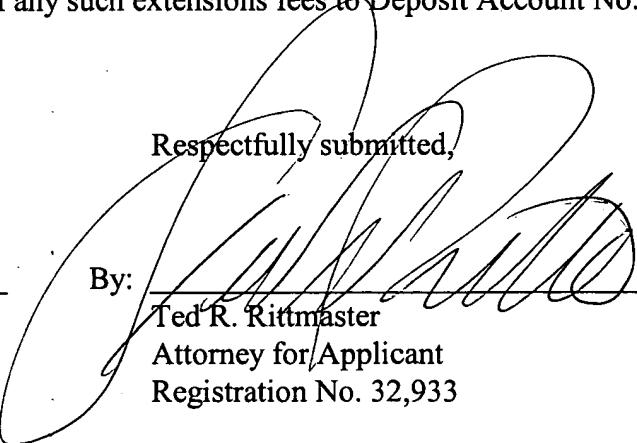
Examiner and omitted from amended claim 34 (i.e., the omitted text is as follows: "connector comprises a stop for preventing further rotation of said connector in a particular rotational direction on said base when said").

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance.
Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

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